

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

The claims are 69-81, 90-94 and 164-165. Claim 81 has been amended to improve its form and claims 99-109, 134, 147-160, 166-178 and 180-204, which the Examiner previously withdrew from consideration as directed to a non-elected species, have been canceled without prejudice as requested by the Examiner. Claims 83-89, 124-127, 129-133, 135-146 and 161-163 have also been canceled without prejudice to their presentation in a continuation application. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

Claim 81 was objected to on formal grounds set forth on page 2 of the Office Action and claims 142-146 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for the use of the word "particularly" in claim 142 and the word "preferably" in claim 144. In response, Applicants have amended claim 81 to improve its form and have canceled claims 142-146 without prejudice, thereby obviating the Examiner's objection and rejection to the claims.

Claims 83-89 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Rohs U.S. Patent No. 6,277,048*. Claims 125, 127, 129-130 and 132 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Nobumoto U.S. Patent No. 5,213,011*. Claims 135-144 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Holliday U.S. Patent No. 6,139,465*. Claims 161 and 163 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Rohs U.S. Patent No. 6,093,131*.

Claims 124, 126 and 133 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Nobumoto '011* in view of *Miyata U.S. Patent No. 7,077,777*. Claim 131 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Nobumoto '011* in view of *Stoeckicht U.S. Patent No. 1,868,676*. Claims 145-146 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Holliday* in view of *Rohs '131*. Claim 162 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Rohs '131* in view of *Herscovici U.S. Patent No. 5,073,157*.

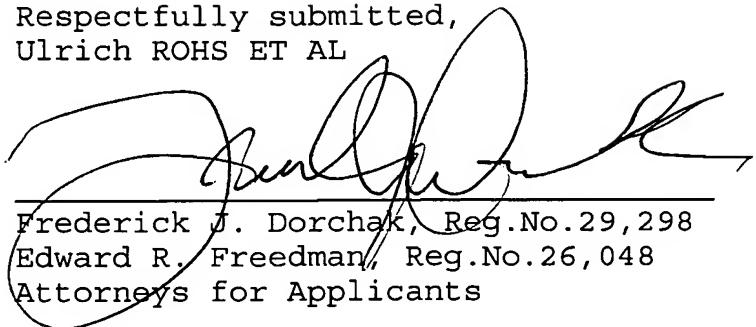
The Examiner has also indicated, however, that claims 69-81, 90-94 and 164-165 are allowed. Without conceding the propriety

of the Examiner's rejections and in order to expedite this case, Applicants' have amended claim 81 to improve its form as noted previously and have canceled claims 83-89, 99-109, 124-127, 129-163, 166-178 and 180-204 so that only claims 69-81, 90-94 and 164-165, which have been allowed, remain in the application. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

In summary, claim 81 has been amended and claims 83-89, 99-109, 124-127, 129-163, 166-178 and 180-204 have been canceled. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this application be passed to issue.

Applicants also submit herewith a Third Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosure: Third Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement,
Form PTO-1449 with six (6) references and computer-generated
translations of DE 745 147 and JP 2000-291759

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